

Common Elder Abuse Scams:

- “You’re a Sweepstakes Winner!” Elder gets a call or letter saying they have just won a big “prize,” but must first send money for “taxes” or fees before getting their prize.
- Fortune-Teller or Psychic Healer: Elder’s money or jewelry is “cursed” and must be given to a fortuneteller to remove the “curse”.
- “I’ll fix your roof or driveway - Cheap!” Elder pays cash to a door-to-door solicitor who just happens to have some left-over materials from a previous job, then gets shoddy work - or no work at all.
- “Let’s share this found cash” Stranger approaches elder with offer to share “found” cash. Elder is told to get “good faith money” of their own, which is then stolen by deception.
- Victim receives a telephone call requesting verification of either credit card number or social security number. This information is then used by for fraudulent purposes.
- “You hit my car in the parking lot!” Crooks smear elder’s parked car with tar while elder is shopping. When elder returns and drives off, crooks follow, and accuse elder of Hit & Run, pointing to tar as evidence of “damage”. Crooks demand cash to keep from calling Police.
- “Latin-Lotto” Scam: “Illegal alien” offers the elder a share of their “winning” lottery ticket - if the elder is willing to put up their own cash to help redeem it.
- Gold Bar or Diamond Scam: “Foreigner” offers to sell elder a fake gold bar or diamond at a “big discount”, to raise cash for a “family emergency” back home.
- Utility Inspector Scam: Phony “Utility Inspector” comes to elder’s home, distracts elder while the house is burglarized.
- Bank Examiner Scam: Elder gets phone call asking the elder to give a cash deposit to a “bank detective” trying to catch a crooked teller at the elder’s bank.

Where to Get Help

Adult Protective Services (APS) 877 565-2020

- Investigates complaints of abuse or neglect of elders and dependent adults
- Helps elders obtain needed social services, make police reports, and get conserved

Ombudsman 909 388-4500

- Receives complaints involving elders in long term care facilities, such as nursing homes

Public Guardian 909 387-2536

- Assesses physical, mental and financial needs of elders and dependent adults
- Petitions Probate Court for conservatorship
- Locates assets and arranges for disposition
- Estate Investigators - secure assets and provide money management
- Representative Payee Program - financial management of income (SS, SSI, pensions)

Veterans Service Office 909 387-5516

- Helps veterans and dependents obtain benefits, and outreach to homeless veterans

Conservators

- Appointed by Probate Court, when a person is no longer able to care for themselves, either physically, financially, or both
- May be the Public Guardian, a family member, or a professional conservator
- Note: Power of Attorney is no substitute for conservatorship - it *cannot protect* the elder!

Probate Court 909 387-3999

- Investigates conservatorship cases
- Conducts hearings to determine legal competency and to appoint conservators
- Oversees conservatorships and monitors how the elder’s funds are spent in their behalf

Your Police Department or Local Sheriff

- Investigates reports of crimes against elders and dependent adults; arrests their abusers

District Attorney

- Prosecutes in court those who commit crimes against elders and dependent adults

Victim Services Unit 909 388-4900 (S.B.P.D.) 909 945-6032 (R.C.) 909 387-6540 (Central) 760 951-3412 (Victorville)

- Provides assistance to victims of crime



Elder Financial Abuse

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Elder Abuse Prosecution Units

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909 945-6032
San Bernardino
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760 951-3413

August 2001